

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071162
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TREASURY/CUSTOMS

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT:MODE - TREASURY REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A US POSITION
AT USEC FOR LIAISON WITH CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL

REF: USEC BRUSSELS 00178

1. REFTEL STIMULATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND DISCUSSION
AMONG CONCERNED PARTIES IN WASHINGTON.

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PAGE 02 STATE 071162

2. AS RESULT OF EXTENDED INTERAGENCY STAFF DIALOGUE WHICH
IT PROMOTED, FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE DUTIES NOW SEEN
HERE AS RELEVANT AND SIGNIFICANT FOR THE PROPOSED OFFICER
POSITION.

A. MAINTAIN CLOSE AND CONTINUING LIAISON WITH THE CCC
STAFF AS IT DEVELOPS INITIAL DRAFTS OF PROPOSED CONVENTIONS,

RECOMMENDATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NORMS, AND TECHNICAL PAPERS;
SUBMIT U.S. DIPLOMATIC NOTES, PROPOSALS AND INFORMAL
MESSAGES ON CCC AND RELATED CUSTOMS MATTERS TO THE CCC AND
ITS STAFF; AND REPORT TO WASHINGTON ON AREAS OF POTENTIAL
DIFFICULTY.

B. MAINTAIN LIAISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES' PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CCC; LOBBY FOR US POSITIONS; REPORT

ON POSITIONS OF OTHER MEMBER STATES, SUPPLYING TO WASHING-
TON RELEVANT STATISTICS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION; REPORT
ON ANTICIPATED POSITIONS OF THE EC AND OTHER MEMBER
COUNTRIES CONCERNING VARIOUS TECHNICAL AND POLICY MATTERS
ON THE AGENDA FOR UPCOMING CCC MEETINGS.

C. PROVIDE THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE MTN AT GENEVA WITH
COVERAGE OF CCC WORK ON THE BRUSSELS DEFINITION OF VALUE
(BDV) AND ON BRUSSELS TARIFF NOMENCLATURE (BTN);

REPORT TO WASHINGTON CONCERNING WORK OF THE CCC HARMONIZED
SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (72 TRADE ACT);

MONITOR AND REPORT AS APPROPRIATE ON CCC ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS SUCH AS THE BUDGET, PERSONNEL POLICY AND GENERAL
ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNING.

D. PARTICIPATE IN CCC COMMITTEE AND AD HOC MEETINGS AS AN
ACCREDITED MEMBER OF THE U.S. DELEGATION.

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PAGE 03 STATE 071162

E. KEEP INFORMED CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH RELATE TO CCC ACTIVITIES (E.G.
CUSTOMS-RELATED WORK IN UNCTAD, ECE, GATT AND THE MTN).

F. CONDUCT RELATIONS WITH THE EC'S CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION
ON CUSTOMS ISSUES SUCH AS EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN, TARIFF
RECLASSIFICATION, ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES, AND CUSTOMS
VALUATION.

3. INFORMAL WASHINGTON REVIEW BY STAFFS IN STATE AND
CUSTOMS HAS DEVELOPED A NEAR-CONSENSUS THAT THE ABOVE
DUTIES WOULD CONSTITUTE A FULL TIME JOB. PROBLEM OF
SUPPLYING A SUPPORTING SECRETARIAL POSITION IS ALSO BEING
ADDRESSED HERE, AND CUSTOMS HAS PROPOSED ESTABLISHING A
GS-6 SLOT. FINALLY, IRENE MEISTER, VICE PRESIDENT OF
AMERICAN PAPER INSTITUTE WHO IS AN INFORMED AND INTERESTED
OBSERVER OF THE SITUATION, HAS STRESSED TO DEPARTMENT THAT
THE JOB CALLS FOR AN OFFICER WITH THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF
ECONOMIC AND TRADE IMPLICATIONS, FULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE

GENERAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO CUSTOMS. SHE ARGUES THAT A TECHNICIAN, NO MATTER HOW COMPETENT IN CUSTOMS MATTERS, WOULD NOT ACCOMPLISH THE TASK, WHICH COULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE IN THE FORMULATION OF RELATED U.S. ECONOMIC POLICIES.

4. IN ORDER TO MOVE THIS PROPOSAL TO DECISION, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS FROM USEC, COORDINATING WITH EMBASSY BRUSSELS:

(A) ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE LIST OF DUTIES OUTLINED PARA 2 ABOVE, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE GRADE LEVEL AND WHETHER JOB WOULD OCCUPY OFFICER'S FULL TIME;

(B) A FRESH ASSESSMENT CONCERNING JOB'S ORGANIZATIONAL SUBORDINATION IN USEC; WHETHER MORE SUITABLE FOR FSO OR CUSTOMS GS OFFICER; PLUS ANY SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING BACKGROUND, SKILLS, QUALIFICATIONS FOR EVENTUAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 071162

INCUMBENT;

(C) IF DUTIES IN QUESTION HAD TO BE ABSORBED BY USEC'S EXISTING AUTHORIZED STATE COMPLEMENT, IDENTIFY WHICH EXISTING STATE FUNCTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCONTINUED IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THAT. (WE REALIZE REFTEL PARA FOUR STATED NEITHER EMBASSY NOR USEC CAN ABSORB THE CCC DUTIES WITH CURRENT STAFFING, BUT WE STILL NEED AN INDICATION WHERE THOSE DUTIES RANK IN YOUR SCALE OF PRIORITIES.)

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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